THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Government has seen the news- item. The Committee on Environment and Health constituted by the Government recommended creation of integrated data base on environmental pollution and its impact on human health. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has constituted an Environmental Health Cell and also commissioned environmental health studies, to generate the data base on environmental pollution and human health.

Ganga Jal at Har-ki-Paudi

†1376. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ganga Jal at Har-ki-Paudi in the pilgrim city of Hardwar, which is the symbol of crores of people's faith, is not even fit for Achman as per the latest data of Uttaranchal Regional Pollution Control Board;

(b) whether as per the studies made by that Board, consumption of even a handful of such water may cause jaundice, cholera and other serious abdominal diseases; and

(c) if so, the effective steps taken by Government to make pure Ganga Jal available to crores of devotees visiting the place from within the country and abroad, and the measures taken to get rid of this problem?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) As per Central Pollution Control Board's classification for river waters, the river Ganga at Hardwar is designated for bathing class quality only and not for 'Achman'. The latest data of Regional Office of Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board at Dehradun for the period from January, 2001 to January, 2002 as given below show that all the parameters except total coliforms in Ganga at Hardwar are within the prescribed limits for bathing purposes. The water quality standards for bacterial quality namely total coliform and fecal coliform have been revised and according to the revised standards, the total coliforms indicated in Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board Regional Office data are also within limits. The results of water quality monitoring programme under the Ganga Action Plan done separately also indicate that all parameters namely, Dissolved Oxygen, Biochemical Oxygen Demand and Total Coliform are within the prescribed limits.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Water Quality Data of Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board for river Ganga at Hardwarar January, 2001 to January, 2002

Range			Standards for bathing class		
DO(mg/l)	BOD(mg/l)	Total Coliform (MPN* /100ml)	DO(mg/l) More than 5.00	BOD (mg/1) Less than 3.00	Total Coliform (MPN/lOOml) 10.000 (revised from 500)
8.2-9.5	1.8-2.5	900-1600			

*MPN-Most Probable Number

(b) As per report of Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board Regional Office, Dehradun, no cases of water borne ailments have been reported from Hardwar.

(c) Under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, a capacity to treat about 25 million litres per day of sewage has been created at Rishikesh-Hardwar. This capacity is to be increased by another 7 million litres per day under the ongoing second phase of the Ganga Action Plan. These steps will ensure that sewage of Hardwar does not reach the river without prior treatment.

Environment Pollution (Prevention and control) Authority

1377. SHRrMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority set up in 1998, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations and the part played by the Authority in monitoring and implementing the action plan for controlling pollution; and

(c) the number of recommendations accepted and implemented by Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):(a)Yes, Sir.